

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 03 SEPTEMBER 2006

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. This broadcast can also be heard on Echolink by connecting to ZS6FCS or to [www.zs6mrk.org](http://www.zs6mrk.org) and following the indicated links. This, and previous bulletins, can be downloaded from the web site of the SARL i.e. [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za). You can read or download previous bulletins from there and subscribe to receive future bulletins by email.

This transmission is by Hans, ZS6KR, on 145,725 and 7,066 MHz from Pretoria with a relay on 3 695 kHz. (Other newsreaders please change to suit).

### SILENT KEY

It is with regret that the Magalies Radio Amateur Club has to announce that one of their YL members, Thea Seymore, ZS6TEA, became a silent key on the 24th August after suffering ill health for the last number of months. To Adanus, ZS6AU, her only surviving child, other relatives and friends our sincerest condolences.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

### NEW CONSTRUCTION COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

#### WRC 2007 PREPARATORY GROUP AGENDA ITEMS

#### MORE NOISES OF PLC IN DURBAN

#### RESULTS OF SARL HF PHONE CONTEST

You are listening to ZS6SRL. Stay tuned for more detail on these and other important and interesting news items.

### NEW CONSTRUCTION COMPETITION ANNOUNCED FOR A 70 CM RECEIVER CONVERTER

The South African Amateur Radio Development Trust has announced the launch of a new construction competition for 2006. This follows after no entries were received for the competition to design and construct an antenna tuner. The new competition is for the design and construction of a 70 cm receive converter in support of South Africa's second satellite to be launched in December 2006. The satellite now named Sumbandile, which freely translated from Venda, means "Pathfinder" includes an amateur radio FM transponder with an uplink on 2 metres and a downlink on 70 cm.

The competition is in two parts. The first part is the design of a receive converter with an IF of 144/145 MHz and the second part is the construction of a complete

converter, boxed and ready for operation.

Entries for the first leg of the competition will close 01 November. Participants are required to submit in electronic format the circuit diagram, a component list and supplier resource list as well as a brief write-up. Three winners will be selected who will each receive an ARRL Satellite Handbook and R500 towards the cost of constructing the final unit.

The second leg of the competition, a completed operating converter closes on 31 December. The three entries will be judged on operating performance, quality of construction and completeness of documentation. The winner will receive an ICOM VC82 hand-held transceiver plus a certificate and a 2007 ARRL Handbook. The two runner-ups will each receive a certificate and a 2007 ARRL Handbook. The competition is open to all radio amateurs and electronic enthusiasts on the African continent.

More details can be found on the web at [www.amateurradio.org.za](http://www.amateurradio.org.za).

#### WORLD RADIO CONFERENCE 2007 PREPARATORY GROUP AGENDA ITEMS

The WRC 07 Preparatory Group met over two days last week and presented the various agenda items to representatives from Industry and Government. Rapporteurs highlighted the various issues in order to gain a better understanding in preparation for developing a South African position.

Two items on the WRC 07 Agenda are of particular interest to radio amateurs. The one item is the worldwide allocation of 135,7 - 137,8 kHz on a secondary basis to the Amateur Service. The other is agenda item 1.13 covering allocations to all services in the HF bands between 4 MHz and 10 MHz excluding those frequencies in the spectrum 7 000 - 7 200 kHz and a number of bands as appearing in various appendices.

The SARL has expressed interest in becoming involved in the agenda item as it includes discussions on the allocation of 7 200 - 7 300 kHz to the amateur service worldwide. The agenda item is complex as it includes discussions on new modes of broadcasting and other technologies. The spectrum may only be 6 MHz wide but houses important radio services ranging from amateur radio, broadcasting, maritime services, aviation services and defence interests. Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV, was appointed as rapporteur to co-ordinate a group of experts drawn from the Maritime Services, Civil Aviation, Department of Defence and Sentech to prepare a more detailed view of the issues for further discussion in follow-up meetings.

#### MORE NOISES OF PLC IN DURBAN

This week the MyADSL website published information about new PLC trials to be carried out in the Durban area. The website said: "The Ethekwini Municipality is launching a PowerLine Carrier (PLC) pilot in the Morningside - Berea Park area, promising speeds of 2 Mbps and higher."

In letters sent out in these regions, residents are invited to participate in the project, and will receive free Internet access during the three-month trial period. “The duration of the project is expected to be approximately 3 months, and will require participants to have and use their own PCs,” the letter said.

This trial will serve to evaluate the service and establish whether it is feasible to launch a commercial service afterwards. Should the trial prove to be successful, this service will be rolled out as a commercial offering to Ethekweni Residents.”

The SARL has already lodged an enquiry to ICASA and questioned whether the intended trial was authorised by ICASA. Regulations exist allowing communication trials to be carried out, although some restrictions apply. However, ICASA is on record that no commercial services will be licensed until equipment is type approved. The SARL is working with Eric Winter, Chairman of the SA National Committee of CISPR, who was tasked to draft a proposal for consideration by the ICASA Council, to establish the interference risk posed by PLC.

If any listeners live in the areas or have family and friends in the area, please obtain a copy of the letter and fax it 088 011 675-2793 or mail it to [plc@sarl.org.za](mailto:plc@sarl.org.za).

#### PRESTIGIOUS HONOUR BESTOWED ON RADIO AMATEUR

The Vaal University of Technology has awarded Gary Immelman, ZS6YI, with the Chancellor’s Gold Medal for Meritorious Service. This is in recognition of his friendship, support and loyal service to the University, region and country. Gary is complimented that he is an inspiration to the institution, the staff and students.

Gary will receive this award during the Graduation Ceremony on Friday 15 September 2006. Congratulations, Gary, well done!

#### AMATEUR RADIO IS FEATURED MONTHLY IN ENGINEERIT

As part of the SARL’s initiative to promote the diversity of Amateur Radio and its technology component, a monthly feature will be published in EngineerIT.

EngineerIT is a business-to-business magazine, published by EE Publishers, in print and on-line, covering the techniques and application of electronics, measurement, instrumentation, automation, control, networking, broadcasting, computer, software, information and communication technologies in all aspects of engineering for economic, business and social development.

Subscription is free for readers who meet the qualifications. Visit [www.eepublishers.co.za](http://www.eepublishers.co.za) for details. You can also read it online from links at the same address. In the August edition, the Amateur Radio Focus is on Digital Communication featuring D-Star.

To read the article plug the following URL into your browser [www.eepublishers.co.za/view.php?sid=6065](http://www.eepublishers.co.za/view.php?sid=6065).

THE YOUTH SHOW THE “OLDIES” HOW IT SHOULD BE DONE.

Two young men, Elandré, ZS4TU, aged 10 and Luan, ZS4TY, aged 13 have taken top honours during the 2006 SARL HF Phone Contest held in August. Elandré and Luan worked as a multi-operator station using the call sign ZS4TZ. Only one log was received from a Young Lady and that is Pam, ZS6APT.

The contest committee received 21 log submissions, made up of 16 single operator logs, 2 multi-operator logs and 3 check logs. Band conditions on 20 metres were terrible with 80 metres being the best band for the day.

Multi-operator: 1st Elandré, ZS4TU, and Luan, ZS4TZ - 188 points; 2nd Cape Town ARC - 126 points.

Single operator: 1st Jan, ZS4JAN - 164 points; 2nd Gary, ZS5NK - 150 points; 3rd Hans, ZS6KR, and Tjerk, ZS6P - 136 points each.

The best score on a single band was achieved by Donovan, ZS2DL, with 84 points in the 40 metre band.

The Bloemfontein RAC is leading the club competition with 413 points followed by the Pretoria ARC on 382 points, the Cape Town ARC on 322 points and the Highway ARC on 321 points. The full results were published in a special issue of HF Happenings 214.

#### HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?

Following last week's SARL News item on subscriptions, some conversations on the air seem to indicate that members and prospective members believe that it may be too late to pay or join. On the contrary, it is never too late to pay your subscriptions or join the SARL. Please do it now. Your membership adds volume to our voice when it comes to protecting and advancing Amateur Radio.

The subscription for 2006/2007 is only R305 for the member category. If you have any query or want to know how to pay, call Vee on weekdays between 09:00 and 13:00 on 011 675 2393 or send an email to [admin@sarl.org.za](mailto:admin@sarl.org.za).

Listeners are also reminded that the SARL has a new fax number. Please make a note. The new number is 088 011 675 2793. The fax is an electronic service that delivers faxes on the office PC, which speeds up the process of directing queries and comment to the appropriate councillor.

#### CONTEST NEWS

On Sunday 10 September, the Spring 40 metre QRP Sprint will be held. It is a CW and phone contest and starts at 14:00 CAT and ends at 16:00 CAT. The rules are available in the 2006 Contest Manual and were published in HF Happenings 214.

#### PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at very low-to-low levels. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from unsettled to

minor storm levels on 03 and 04 September. The expected Effective Sun Spot number for the coming week will be less than 5.

20 m and 40 m will provide best opportunities for DX. There is a possibility of weak 20 m openings towards the East from about 08:00 CAT and 40 m from 18:00 until 22:00. From about 16:00, 20 m may open towards Europe and 40 m from 20:00. Conditions are going to be very challenging towards the USA.

For the CW and digital enthusiasts, it may also be worth monitoring 10 MHz during hours of darkness.

Please visit [www.spaceweather.co.za](http://www.spaceweather.co.za) for further information.

#### DIARY OF EVENTS

10 September - Spring QRP Sprint; 11 September - Closing date for logs for the SARL HF CW Contest; 14 September - Closing date for entries for the October RAE; 7 October - East Rand Flea market; 19 October - End of year RAE.

SARL News depends on clubs and individuals for news items of importance and interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution will reach the SARL News team, is to place it in [www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp) not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It will be appreciated if you will do it in both Afrikaans and English.

The SARL also invites all listeners to listen to the program Amateur Radio Mirror International this Sunday morning at 10:00 CAT on 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area with relays on 7 082, 7 205 and 17 695 kHz. Audio is also streamed on [www.zs6mrk.org](http://www.zs6mrk.org) and on Echolink from ZS6FCS as for this bulletin. A repeat transmission takes place on Mondays at 21:00 on 3 215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor the ARMI transmissions on the non-amateur frequencies.

You have been listening to a news bulletin by the South African Radio League, which was compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS.

A prosperous week to all, 73.